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# TIME AND LEARNING

## Results of Self-Reported Survey For Principals

1997-1998 School Year



**Massachusetts Department of Education**

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# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Education

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David P. Driscoll

Commissioner of Education (Interim)

November 1998

Dear Friends:

The Department of Education is pleased to provide this report on the actions taken by all schools to meet the responsibilities of the student learning time regulations adopted by the Board of Education on December 20, 1994. The purpose of the student learning time regulations is to ensure that every public school in the Commonwealth provides its students with the structured learning time needed to enable each student to achieve competency in core subjects. The regulations gave districts a period of three years to reach full implementation for the 1997-1998 school year.

In October 1997, principals were asked to complete a survey to report on the restructuring of the school schedules that occurred to meet the new time standards. This report contains statewide averages of time spent in different subjects at different grade levels as reported by the principals. While this report points out a few schools reporting non-compliance, many of those schools have since met the requirements for the current school year 1998-1999.

Some of the major findings:

- elementary school students on average spend more than 800 hours a year on core academic subjects;
- except for vocational schools, more time is spent in English language arts than in any other subject; and
- over 200 schools have a student year in excess of the state required minimum of 180 days.

The student learning time regulations are only one of numerous reform initiatives in the Commonwealth to improve learning opportunities for all students.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,  
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David P. Driscoll", written over the word "Sincerely,".

David P. Driscoll  
Commissioner of Education



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## **Time and Learning Results of Self-Reported Survey for Principals 1997-1998 School Year**

In December 1994, after over a year of review, five public hearings, and over two thousand comments sent to the Department, the Board of Education adopted the Student Learning Time Regulations. These regulations establish a minimum standard for the amount of "structured learning time" that school districts must provide to students each year: 425 hours/year kindergarten, 900 hours/year elementary, 990 hours/year secondary.

The purpose of the regulations is to ensure that every public school in Massachusetts provides its students with the structured learning time needed to enable each student to achieve competency in core subjects.

Regulation 603 CMR 27.04: "Structured Learning Time Requirements" states:

- (1) No later than the 1997-1998 school year, schools shall ensure that every elementary school student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 900 hours per school year of structured learning time, as defined in 603 CMR 27.02. Time which a student spends at school breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, in homeroom, at recess, in non-directed study periods, receiving school services, and participating in optional school programs shall not count toward meeting the minimum structured learning time requirement for that student.
- (2) No later than the 1997-1998 school year, all schools shall ensure that every secondary school student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 990 hours per school year of structured learning time, as defined in 603 CMR 27.02. Time which a student spends at school breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, in homeroom, at recess, in non-directed study periods, receiving school services, and participating in optional school programs shall not count toward meeting the minimum structured learning time requirement for that student.

In April 1998, the Board of Education amended the Student Learning Time Regulations to clarify the definition in 603 CMR 27.02, as follows:

Core subjects shall mean the core academic subjects specified in G.L. c.69, section 1D (mathematics, science and technology, history and social science, English, foreign languages and the arts), and the subjects covered in courses which are part of an approved vocational-technical education program under M.G.L.c.74.

Other subjects shall mean subjects other than core academic subjects that are required to be taught pursuant to G.L.c.71, sections 1 and 3, and other subjects approved by the school committee as part of the district's program of studies.

Both "core subjects" and "other subjects" count toward the calculation of structured learning time for students.

As part of the annual October Report in which schools report on fiscal and programmatic matters, the Department of Education included a Time and Learning survey (Attachment A) for all superintendents and principals to report the status of their district or school with regard to time and learning for the 1997-1998 school year. A summary of the results of the Superintendents' survey was given to the Board of Education in January 1998 (Attachment B). The findings in this report represent the responses from the principals of 1,776 elementary and secondary schools. Survey instructions asked school principals to provide information based on the majority of students enrolled and to report on a "typical day and year" in the school/district. In all comparisons between elementary and secondary schools, middle/junior high schools are included in the group that the school committee designated for time and learning requirements (i.e., 900 annual structured learning hours for elementary or 990 annual structured learning hours for secondary). Throughout this report, "n" indicates the number of schools responding to the particular question.

## FINDINGS

*Findings are presented in the following categories:*

- Annual Structured Learning Time (Hours)
- Annual Student Days
- Time in Content Areas
- Length of Student Day
- Non-Instructional Time
- Meeting the Standards for Student Learning Time
- Early Release
- Summary and Conclusions



## ***ANNUAL STRUCTURED LEARNING TIME***

According to the student learning time regulations, "No later than the 1997-1998 school year, schools shall ensure that every elementary school student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 900 hours per school year and every secondary school student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 990 hours per year of structured learning time, as defined in 603 CMR 27.02. Time which a student spends at school breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, in homeroom, at recess, in non-directed study periods, receiving school services, and participating in optional school programs shall not count toward meeting the minimum structured learning time requirement for that student."

### **Major Findings**

- Seventy-four elementary schools reported more than 1,000 hours of annual structured learning time and eight reported more than 1,100 hours. The average for the 1,274 reporting elementary schools was 935.5 hours.
- Eight secondary schools reported more than 1,090 hours of annual structured learning time. The average for the 416 reporting secondary schools was 1,015.1 hours.
- Twenty-two elementary schools (4 districts) reported fewer than the required 900 hours of annual structured learning time.
- Twenty-seven secondary schools (16 districts) reported fewer than the required 990 hours of annual structured learning time.

<b>ANNUAL STRUCTURED LEARNING TIME</b>			
	<b>LOWEST REPORTED HOURS</b>	<b>HIGHEST REPORTED HOURS</b>	<b>AVERAGE REPORTED HOURS</b>
<b>ELEMENTARY (n=1,274)</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>1,237.5</b>	<b>935.5</b>
<b>SECONDARY (n=416)</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>1,755</b>	<b>1,015.1</b>



## ***ANNUAL STUDENT DAYS***

603 CMR 27.03 (3) states, "Every school committee shall operate the schools within its district at least 180 school days in a school year."

### **Major Findings**

- Annual student days over the required 180 were reported by 155 (11.5%) elementary schools and 52 (12.2%) secondary schools.
- Six schools (one elementary and five secondary) reported fewer than the required 180 annual student days. Except for Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science (161 student days), the rest reported 179 because of an orientation day where only a portion of students were scheduled to attend.

<b>ANNUAL STUDENT DAYS</b>	<b>PERCENT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (n = 1,341)</b>	<b>PERCENT OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS (n = 427)</b>
<b>Fewer than 180 Days</b>	<b>.1%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
<b>180 Days</b>	<b>88.0%</b>	<b>86.4%</b>
<b>181 - 185 Days</b>	<b>11.2%</b>	<b>11.0%</b>
<b>More than 185 Days</b>	<b>.3%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
<b>RANGE</b>	<b>179 - 195 Days</b>	<b>161 - 210 Days</b>

## ***TIME IN CONTENT AREAS***

Statewide averages in instructional time vary from grade level to grade level. Detailed information on instructional time in specific content areas is displayed on pages 8 and 9. For the findings on page 7, "core content areas" include English language arts, history and social science, math, science and technology, foreign languages, and the arts. Approved vocational-technical education programs under G.L. c. 74 are also counted as core content in vocational/technical schools.

### **Major Findings**

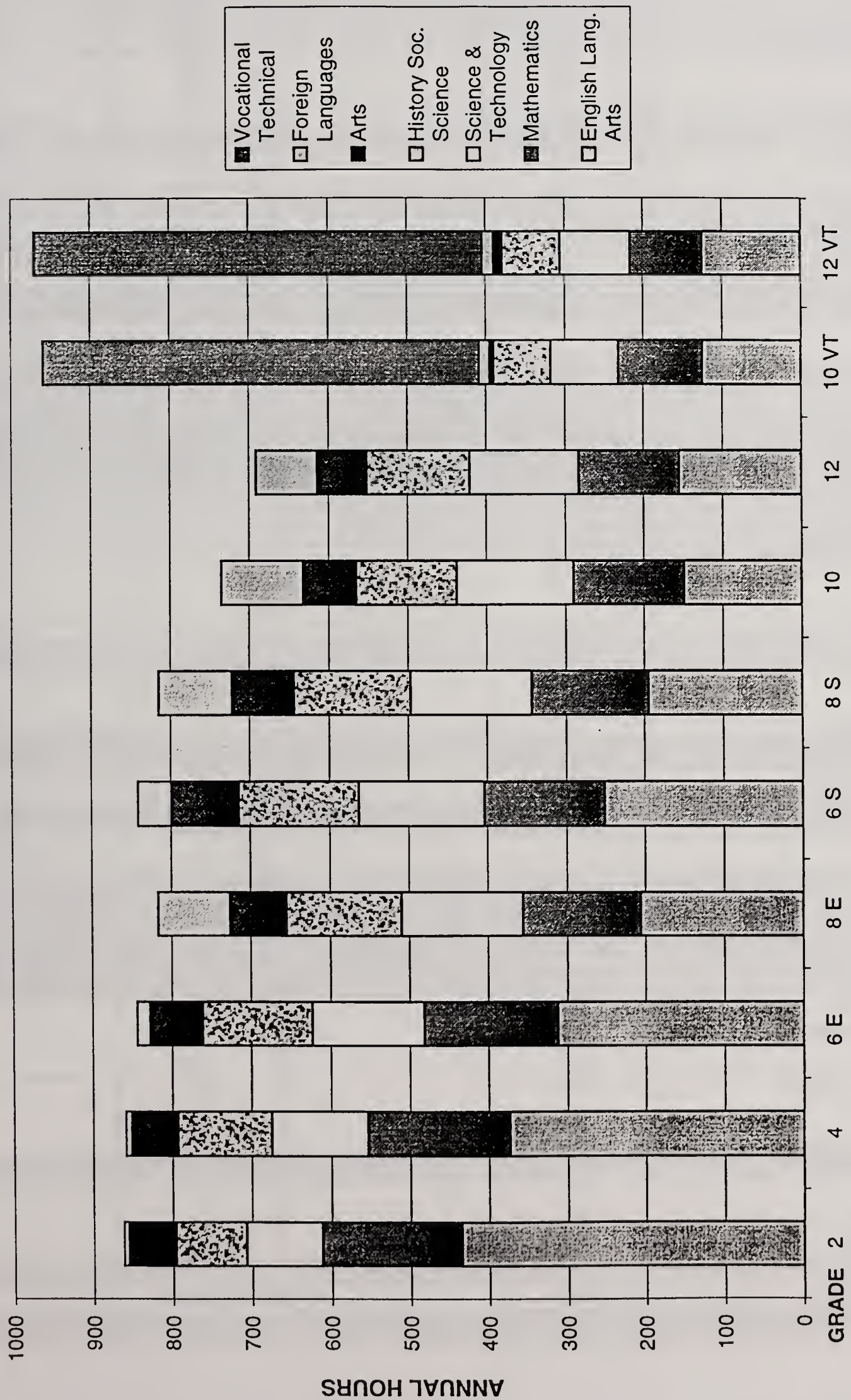
- Elementary grades spend approximately 85% of the total student day in "core subjects" and "other subjects." Time spent on the core subjects ranges from 78% (861 hours) for Grade 2 to 73% (817 hours) for Grade 8-Elementary<sup>1</sup>.
- Secondary (academic) grades spend approximately 87% of the total student day in "core subjects" and "other subjects." Time spent on core subjects ranges from 73% (843 hours) for Grade 6-Secondary<sup>1</sup> to 59% (690 hours) for Grade 12.
- Vocational/Technical schools spend 89% of the total student day on "core" and "other" subjects. Eighty-two percent (960 hours) of the student year is spent on "core subjects" (including vocational/technical training) for Grade 10 and 83% (971 hours) for Grade 12.
- As can be seen in the graph on page 7, the total amount of time spent in the core content areas declines each year for elementary grades 2 through 8, and the same is true for secondary grades 6 through 12.

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<sup>1</sup>Districts that operate separate middle schools have the option of designating those schools as elementary or secondary.



# HOURS IN CORE SUBJECTS





CONTENT AREA	GRADE 2 (n = 1078)		GRADE 4 (n = 1042)	
	AVERAGE HOURS	PERCENT OF STUDENT YEAR	AVERAGE HOURS	PERCENT OF STUDENT YEAR
English Language Arts	435		374	
Math	177		180	
Science and Technology	95		121	
History and Social Science	89		118	
Arts	60		59	
Foreign Languages	6		7	
<b>HOURS IN CORE AREAS</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>0.78</b>
Physical Education	41		42	
Other	26		28	
Vocational/Technical	1		1	
<b>INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>0.85</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>0.85</b>
Non-Instructional Time	168		167	
<b>TOTAL HOURS IN STUDENT YEAR</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>1.00</b>

CONTENT AREA	GRADE 6 ELEMENTARY (n = 515)		GRADE 8 ELEMENTARY (n = 216)	
	AVERAGE HOURS	PERCENT OF STUDENT YEAR	AVERAGE HOURS	PERCENT OF STUDENT YEAR
English Language Arts	312		206	
Math	170		150	
Science and Technology	141		154	
History and Social Science	138		145	
Arts	67		71	
Foreign Languages	16		91	
<b>HOURS IN CORE AREAS</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>0.76</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>0.73</b>
Physical Education	49		57	
Other	46		77	
Vocational/Technical	9		22	
<b>INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>0.85</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>0.86</b>
Non-Instructional Time	171		154	
<b>TOTAL HOURS IN STUDENT YEAR</b>	<b>1,119</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>1.00</b>

CONTENT AREA	GRADE 6 SECONDARY (n = 98)		GRADE 8 SECONDARY (n = 184)	
	AVERAGE HOURS	PERCENT OF STUDENT YEAR	AVERAGE HOURS	PERCENT OF STUDENT YEAR
English Language Arts	251		195	
Science and Technology	159		153	
Math	153		149	
History and Social Science	151		147	
Arts	85		78	
Foreign Languages	42		93	
<b>HOURS IN CORE AREAS</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>0.73</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>0.70</b>
Other	75		91	
Physical Education	58		63	
Vocational/Technical	32		45	
<b>INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>0.87</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>0.88</b>
Non-Instructional Time	147		144	
<b>TOTAL HOURS IN STUDENT YEAR</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>1.00</b>



CONTENT AREA	GRADE 10 ACADEMIC (n = 301)		GRADE 12 ACADEMIC (n = 302)	
	AVERAGE HOURS	PERCENT OF STUDENT YEAR	AVERAGE HOURS	PERCENT OF STUDENT YEAR
English Language Arts	149		155	
Science and Technology	148		138	
Math	141		128	
History and Social Science	127		130	
Foreign Languages	103		63	
Arts	67		75	
<b>HOURS IN CORE AREAS</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>0.59</b>
Vocational/Technical	122		144	
Other	89		127	
Physical Education	70		54	
<b>INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>0.87</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>0.87</b>
Non-Instructional Time	152		146	
<b>TOTAL HOURS IN STUDENT YEAR</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1,161</b>	<b>1.00</b>

CONTENT AREA	GRADE 10 VOCATIONAL (n = 29)		GRADE 12 VOCATIONAL (n = 29)	
	AVERAGE HOURS	PERCENT OF STUDENT YEAR	AVERAGE HOURS	PERCENT OF STUDENT YEAR
Vocational/Technical	551		567	
English Language Arts	125		125	
Math	107		91	
Science and Technology	86		90	
History and Social Science	72		73	
Foreign Languages	14		14	
Arts	5		11	
<b>HOURS IN CORE AREAS</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>0.82</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>0.83</b>
Physical Education	50		33	
Other	32		34	
<b>INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>0.89</b>
Non-Instructional Time	127		126	
<b>TOTAL HOURS IN STUDENT YEAR</b>	<b>1,169</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>1,164</b>	<b>1.00</b>

A detailed chart regarding annual hours of foreign language instruction can be found on page 10.



- The statewide average of hours spent on foreign languages includes schools that have minimal or no foreign languages program. The table below shows the statewide average hours by grade, the number of schools reporting NO hours in foreign languages, the number of schools reporting SOME hours in foreign languages, and the average hours for schools that have any number of hours in foreign languages (excludes schools that have no foreign language hours).

<b>GRADE</b>	<b>STATEWIDE AVERAGE HOURS (ALL SCHOOLS)</b>	<b>NUMBER OF SCHOOLS WITH NO REPORTED HOURS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES</b>	<b>SCHOOLS REPORTING SOME FOREIGN LANGUAGE HOURS</b>	
			<b>NUMBER OF SCHOOLS</b>	<b>AVERAGE HOURS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES</b>
<i>Grade 2-Elementary</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,204</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>47.7 Hours</b>
<i>Grade 4-Elementary</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,189</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>46.2 Hours</b>
<i>Grade 6-Elementary</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>62.7 Hours</b>
<i>Grade 8-Elementary</i>	<b>91</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>105.7 Hours</b>
<i>Grade 6-Secondary</i>	<b>42</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>68.1 Hours</b>
<i>Grade 8-Secondary</i>	<b>93</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>102.5 Hours</b>
<i>Grade 10-Academic</i>	<b>113</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>116.8 Hours</b>
<i>Grade 12-Academic</i>	<b>69</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>72.1 Hours</b>
<i>Grade 10-Vocational</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>45.3 Hours</b>
<i>Grade 12-Vocational</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>35.8 Hours</b>

### ***LENGTH OF STUDENT DAY***

- The average length of the student day is 6.2 hours for elementary schools and 6.5 hours for secondary schools.
- The majority of elementary schools (82.1%) have a student day that lasts between 6 and 6.5 hours. The majority of secondary schools (56.3%) have a student day that lasts between 6.5 and 7 hours.

HOURS IN AVERAGE SCHOOL DAY	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (n = 1,345)	SECONDARY SCHOOLS (n = 429)
Fewer than 6 Hours	3.3%	0%
6 to < 6.5 Hours	82.1%	40.1%
6.5 to < 7 Hours	13.6%	56.3%
7 Hours or More	1.0%	3.5%
<b>RANGE OF HOURS</b>	5.75 - 8	6 - 9.5
<b>AVERAGE HOURS</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.5</b>

- The majority of elementary schools (58.6%) have 5 to <5.25 hours of structured learning time a day<sup>2</sup>.
- The majority of secondary schools (86%) have 5.5 to <6 hours of structured learning time a day<sup>2</sup>.

The tables on the next page identify the number of schools in each Structured Learning Time group (i.e., 4.5 to <5 hours of structured learning time) by the total number of student hours in the day. For example, 44 elementary schools (see shaded areas of table on the following page) with fewer than 6 **total student hours** in the day have 5 to <5.25 hours of **structured learning time a day**, and 48 elementary schools with 6.5 to <7 total student hours in the day have the same amount (5 to <5.25 hours) of structured learning time a day.

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<sup>2</sup>Structured learning time is time during which students are engaged in regularly scheduled instruction, learning activities, or learning assessments within the curriculum for study of the "core subjects" and "other subjects." In addition to classroom time where both teachers and students are present, structured learning time may include directed study, independent study, technology-assisted learning, presentations by persons other than teachers, school-to-career programs, and statewide student performance assessments.

	NUMBER OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN EACH CATEGORY OF STRUCTURED LEARNING TIME (n = 1,344)					
TOTAL HOURS IN AVERAGE STUDENT DAY	4.5 to <5 HOURS	5 to <5.25 HOURS	5.25 to <5.5 HOURS	5.5 to <6 HOURS	6 HOURS OR MORE	TOTAL SCHOOLS IN CATEGORY
Fewer than 6 Hours		44	1			45
6 to < 6.5 Hours	21	696	309	76	1	1,103
6.5 to <7 Hours		48	64	69	2	183
7 Hours or More			2	2	9	13
TOTAL SCHOOLS IN CATEGORY	21	788	376	147	12	1,344

	NUMBER OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN EACH CATEGORY OF STRUCTURED LEARNING TIME (n = 429)					
TOTAL HOURS IN AVERAGE STUDENT DAY	4.5 to <5 HOURS	5 to <5.25 HOURS	5.25 to <5.5 HOURS	5.5 to <6 HOURS	6 HOURS OR MORE	TOTAL SCHOOLS IN CATEGORY
Fewer than 6 Hours						
6 to <6.5 Hours		2	24	146		172
6.5 to <7 Hours	3	9	1	219	10	242
7 Hours or More				4	11	15
TOTAL SCHOOLS IN CATEGORY	3	11	25	369	21	429



### ***NON-INSTRUCTIONAL TIME***

- On average, 55 minutes of the student day was used for non-instructional activities (lunch, recess, moving between classes). Elementary schools reported an average of 56 minutes and secondary schools reported an average of 50 minutes of non-instructional time in the student day.

DAILY HOURS OF NON-INSTRUCTIONAL TIME (LUNCH, RECESS, MOVING BETWEEN CLASSES, ETC.)	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (n = 1,344)	SECONDARY SCHOOLS (n = 429)
Less than .5 Hour	.4%	1.2%
.5 to <1 Hour	57.3%	86.01%
1 to <1.5 Hours	41.1%	11.4%
1.5 Hours or More	1.2%	1.4%
RANGE OF MINUTES	15-95 minutes	0 - 119*
AVERAGE DAILY MINUTES	56	50

\* Two secondary schools reported NO time in this category. All others reported 27 minutes or more. Six secondary schools reported over 1.5 hours in this category.

## **MEETING THE STANDARD FOR STUDENT LEARNING TIME**

- The most common changes in non-instructional time made by elementary schools to comply with the full 1997 implementation of the Student Learning Time Regulations included reducing or eliminating early release days (44.7% of schools) and reducing or eliminating recess (33% of schools).
- The most common changes in non-instructional time made by secondary schools to comply with the full 1997 implementation of the Student Learning Time Regulations included reducing or eliminating non-directed study (64.4% of schools) and reducing or eliminating homeroom (57.9% of schools).

SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT	PERCENT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS MAKING CHANGE (n = 1,346)	PERCENT OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS MAKING CHANGE (n = 430)
Reduced Early Release Days	34.4%	35.8%
Reduced Recess	28.8%	2.1%
Reduced Passing Time	18.6%	45.6%
Reduced Homeroom	13.7%	29.1%
Eliminated Early Release Days	10.3%	14.4%
Reduced Lunch Time	6.8%	12.6%
Eliminated Non-Directed Study	5.9%	51.6%
Reduced Non-Directed Study	5.1%	12.8%
Eliminated Recess	4.2%	1.9%
Eliminated Orientation Day(s)	3.0%	27.0%
Eliminated Homeroom	2.7%	28.8%
Other *	3.9%	14.7%

\* Examples include the elimination or reduction of activity/club periods; reduction of the number of classes per day; and going to full day professional development days.

- Ninety-one elementary schools (6.8%) added student days to the year to comply with the Student Learning Time Regulations. The average number of days added by these 91 schools was 2.2 days. No elementary schools added more than 5 days.
- Thirty-five secondary schools (8.1%) added student days to the year to comply with the Student Learning Time Regulations. The average number of days added by these 35 schools was 3.1 days. One secondary school reported adding 13 days and another reported adding 30 days.
- Almost half of all schools added time to the student day, days to the student year, or both time and days.

CHANGES TO STUDENT HOURS AND/OR DAYS	PERCENT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (n = 1,346)	PERCENT OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS (n = 430)
No Changes in Hours or Days	50.9%	47.4%
Added Minutes to Student Day	44.7%	48.6%
Added Days to Student Year	6.8%	8.1%
Added <b>BOTH</b> Hours and Minutes	4.7%	5.8%

- Of 1,776 schools reporting, 810 added time (minutes to day) to comply with the regulations.
- Of 1,346 elementary schools reporting, 601 (44.7%) added minutes to the student day. On average, 14 minutes were added to the elementary school day.
- Of 430 secondary schools reporting, 209 (48.6%) added minutes to the student day. On average, 16 minutes were added to the secondary school day.

MINUTES ADDED TO THE STUDENT DAY	PERCENT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS THAT ADDED TIME TO THE DAY (n = 601)	PERCENT OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS THAT ADDED TIME TO THE DAY (n = 209)
1 - 10 Minutes	51.4%	34.0%
11 - 20 Minutes	37.8%	47.4%
21 - 30 Minutes	5.5%	12.9%
31 - 60 Minutes	5.3%	4.8%
More than 60 Minutes	0%	1.0%



### **EARLY RELEASE**

- On average, schools had "early release" (for professional development, parent conferences, and/or pre-holiday time) on 7.83 days a year (8.20 days for elementary and 6.63 days for secondary).
- Of 1,201 elementary schools responding, 459 (38.2%) had 3 or fewer annual early release days (range 0-42).
- Of 367 secondary schools reporting, 160 (43.6%) had 3 or fewer annual early release days (range 0-44)
- Of the 1,552 schools that reported greater than "zero" annual early release time, the average was 18.9 hours (20 hours for elementary and 15.3 hours for secondary).
- 43.3% (514) of the 1189 elementary schools and 46.6% (169) of secondary schools had between 1 and 10 annual hours of early release time.
- Eighty-nine elementary schools and 10 secondary schools reported more than 50 annual hours of early release time. The highest number of annual early release hours was 123.3 for elementary schools and 99.0 for secondary schools.

ANNUAL HOURS OF EARLY RELEASE	PERCENT OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (n = 1,189)	PERCENT OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS (n = 363)
1 - 10	43.3%	46.6%
11 - 25	35.4%	38.3%
26 - 50	13.8%	12.4%
51 or more	7.5%	2.8%
<b>RANGE OF HOURS</b>	1 - 123.3	1 - 99.0
<b>AVERAGE HOURS</b>	<b>18.8 Hours</b>	<b>15.3 Hours</b>



## *SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS*

Nearly all schools reported being in compliance with the Student Learning Time Regulations for both annual hours and annual days. Only 19 districts reported at least one school out of compliance. The total number of elementary schools not in compliance was 22, and there were 27 secondary schools not in compliance. Of the 15 middle schools not in compliance, all have more than 900 annual hours of structured learning time, but they self-designated as secondary schools which require 990 annual hours of structured learning time.

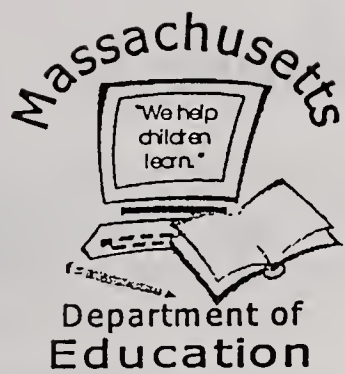
The percentage of time spent on core academic subjects (mathematics, science and technology, history and social science, English, foreign languages, and the arts) and in subjects covered in courses which are part of an approved vocational-technical education program under M.G.L.c.74 was:

- Grade 2 Elementary - 78% (861 hours)
- Grade 4 Elementary - 78% (860 hours)
- Grade 6 Elementary - 76% (845 hours)
- Grade 8 Elementary - 73% (817 hours)
- Grade 6 Secondary - 73% (843 hours)
- Grade 8 Secondary - 70% (815 hours)
- Grade 10 Academic - 63% (735 hours)
- Grade 12 Academic - 59% (690 hours)
- Grade 10 Vocational - 82% (960 hours)
- Grade 12 Vocational - 83% (971 hours)

Both Grade 12 academic and vocational percentages reflect annual structured learning time for a full 180 day student school year, so the percentages are actually less due to senior early release. High schools are permitted to release seniors up to 12 days prior to the end of the regularly scheduled closing day. All but 7 high schools comply with the regulation (Attachment B).

At all grade levels (except 10 and 12 vocational), schools reported spending more time in English language arts than in any other core academic subject. Of the 10 grade levels surveyed, 5 provide fewer than 20 annual hours of foreign language instruction (grades 2, 4, 6 elementary and grades 10, 12 vocational). Three grade levels reported more than 70 annual hours of foreign language instruction (Grades 8 elementary and secondary and Grade 10 academic). The annual number of hours for science and technology instruction peaks at Grade 8 for elementary schools (154 hours). The annual number of hours for science and technology instruction peaks at Grade 6 for secondary schools (159 hours), and then declines. For all grade levels, math instructional hours peak at Grade 4 (180 hours) and then decline for the upper grade levels.

## **ATTACHMENT A**



System Code

School Code

# *Time and Learning Report: Principals*

Questions concerning this report should be referred to:  
THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Professional Development Coordination  
(781) 388-3300 x457 or x216

October 1, 1997





# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Education

350 Main Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-5023

Telephone: (781) 388-3300  
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

## TIME AND LEARNING REPORT - FALL 1997

The purposes of this report are to find out how much structured learning time most of your students receive during the typical day and year in your district/school, and to determine any changes your schools have made to the day and year since the Education Reform Act of 1993. The Department realizes that there may be special circumstances and exceptions with regard to scheduling students, so we are asking that you answer the following questions based on the majority of the students enrolled.

Information collected in this report will be compiled by the Massachusetts Department of Education this fall for statewide analysis and reporting.

### INSTRUCTIONS TO PRINCIPALS

- Throughout the report, please record times in hours and minutes (e.g., 6 hours and 23 minutes) where necessary.
- Please complete the form at the bottom of this page and the report on the following page.
- If you have questions about this report, please call Professional Development Coordination at (781) 388-3300 x457 or x216.
- Please return this form and the report on the following page to your Superintendent no later than **October 10, 1997**.

District Name \_\_\_\_\_ District Code \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ School Code \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Each Grade in this School: PreK K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal's Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal's Signature

Principal's Phone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted to Superintendent \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



# TIME AND LEARNING REPORT - FALL 1997

## PRINCIPALS ONLY

1. Of the number of student days scheduled in the student year (minimum 180), how many are early release days (e.g., day before holiday, professional development, parent conferences)? \_\_\_\_\_ days
2. How many total **annual** hours are students not in school because of the early release days indicated in number 1? \_\_\_\_\_ hrs \_\_\_\_\_ mins
3. The student day begins at \_\_\_\_\_ A.M. and ends at \_\_\_\_\_ P.M.; therefore the student day contains \_\_\_\_\_ hrs \_\_\_\_\_ mins
4. How much time is spent per day in homeroom, at breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, at recess, and in non-directed study? \_\_\_\_\_ hrs \_\_\_\_\_ mins
5. Subtract the amount of daily non-instructional time in number 4 from the total time indicated in number 3. This gives the daily structured learning time per student. \_\_\_\_\_ hrs \_\_\_\_\_ mins
6. How many days in your school year are ALL students scheduled to attend? \_\_\_\_\_ days
  - Do not include kindergarten
  - Do not include orientation days unless all grades are in attendance
  - Do not subtract senior early release days
7. Multiply the daily structured learning time indicated in number 5 by the number of student days in number 6. This equals \_\_\_\_\_ hrs \_\_\_\_\_ mins.
8. From the total in number 7, subtract the time not scheduled because of early release indicated in number 2. This gives the amount of **annual structured learning time**. \_\_\_\_\_ hrs \_\_\_\_\_ mins
9. Since the adoption of The Student Learning Time Regulations in December 1994, did your school need to add time to be in compliance for 1997-1998? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
10. If you answered "Yes" to number 9, how many **annual** hours were needed? \_\_\_\_\_ hrs
11. If your school has made changes since the adoption of the Student Learning Time Regulations, what have you done? (Check all that apply.)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a. Reduce passing time
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Reduce lunch
  - \_\_\_\_\_ c. Reduce early release days
  - \_\_\_\_\_ d. Eliminate early release days
  - \_\_\_\_\_ e. Reduce homeroom
  - \_\_\_\_\_ f. Eliminate homeroom
  - \_\_\_\_\_ g. Reduce recess
  - \_\_\_\_\_ h. Eliminate recess
  - \_\_\_\_\_ i. Reduce non-directed study
  - \_\_\_\_\_ j. Eliminate non-directed study
  - \_\_\_\_\_ k. Eliminate orientation day(s)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ l. Add student time to beginning/end of day
    - 1) How many student minutes were added to the day? \_\_\_\_\_ mins
  - \_\_\_\_\_ m. Add student days to the year
    - 1) How many student days were added to the year? \_\_\_\_\_ days
  - \_\_\_\_\_ n. Other - Briefly explain \_\_\_\_\_
12. If your school is currently utilizing a form of extended block scheduling, what type(s) of scheduling are you using? Vocational /Technical schools should answer this question for their academic days/weeks. (Check all that apply.)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ a. 4x4 semester courses
  - \_\_\_\_\_ b. Alternating day
  - \_\_\_\_\_ c. Rotating extended single block
  - \_\_\_\_\_ d. Team teaching
  - \_\_\_\_\_ e. Thematic units
  - \_\_\_\_\_ f. Other - Briefly explain \_\_\_\_\_

## Average Annual Hours of Structured Learning Time by Content Area (Grades 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12)

13. Total Annual Hours of Structured Learning Time (from question 8 on reverse side): \_\_\_\_\_

In the table below, please break out as accurately as possible the total annual of hours of structured learning time you indicated above by content area and grade level. Provide this information in the columns that correspond to the grades served by your school. Courses/programs that your school considers structured learning time, but are not core academic subjects, should be counted as "Other" in line I. The total in line J should equal the total in number 13 above. The following examples will help you in content areas for which not all students are enrolled in a course or for which the course does not meet five days a week.

*Some students are enrolled in a course five days a week:* Your school has 200 grade 12 students. Of these, 150 (75%) take a history/social science course. The course meets for 1 hour per day, 5 days a week, 180 days per year. The average hours per year per student is 1 hour X 180 days X 75% of students or 135 hours per year.

*All students are enrolled in a course that meets fewer than five days a week:* All grade 2 students in your school take art for 45 minutes a day, 2 days a week, 36 weeks per year. The average hours per year per student is .75 hours X 2 days X 36 weeks X 100% of students or 54 hours per year.

Content Area	Average Hours Per Year Per Student					
	Grade 2	Grade 4	Grade 6	Grade 8	Grade 10	Grade 12
A. English/Language Arts/Reading						
B. History/Social Sciences						
C. Mathematics						
D. Science and Technology						
E. World Languages						
F. Arts (Music, Art, Dance)						
G. Physical Education						
H. Vocational/Technical						
I. Other (eg., health, speech therapy, career development)						
J. Total Structured Learning Time (sum of rows A-I)						
K. Non-Instructional Time (i.e., Lunch, Passing Time, Recess, Pep Rally, Health Screening)						

14. In the table below, please indicate the total number of students enrolled as of October 1, 1997, and the number of students enrolled in a World Languages program.

	Grade 2	Grade 4	Grade 6	Grade 8	Grade 10	Grade 12
A. Total Enrollment as of October 1, 1997						
B. Number of students enrolled in World Languages						



## **ATTACHMENT B**



# **TIME & LEARNING REPORT: RESULTS FROM SUPERINTENDENTS SURVEY**

**Districts included in this report -- 339**

1. How many total days are scheduled for your school year including days set aside for professional development and snow days?

Total School Days Including Professional Development and Snow Days Scheduled	Number of Reporting School Districts
Fewer than 180 Days	1*
180 - 184 Days	23
185 Days	97
186- 190 Days	199
More than 190 Days	19
Missing	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>356</b>

\* MA Academy /Math & Science reported 169 total days in line with the schedule of Worcester Polytechnic Institute

2. How many total days in your school year are ALL students scheduled to attend? Do not include kindergarten. Do not include orientation days unless all grades are in attendance. Do not subtract senior early release days.

Total School Days All Students Scheduled	Number of Reporting School Districts
Fewer than 180 Days	2*
180 Days	290
181 - 185 Days	41
186 - 190 Days	2
More than 190 Days	4
Missing	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>356</b>

\*MA Academy/Math & Science reported 161 days.  
Stoughton reported 179 days and has already corrected it for next year.

3. How many days before the end of the regularly scheduled school year are seniors released?

Number of Days Released	Number of Reporting School Districts
ZERO Days	2
1 -5 Days	38
6 - 11 Days	117
12 Days	88
More than 12 Days	7*
Blank	1**
No High School	38
Total	339

\* Seniors released 13 days early: Grafton (183 student days); Easton; Mansfield (Grad. Location problem - will be corrected for future). Seniors released 14 days in Attleboro, 15 days in Wellesley, 17 days in Hopkinton, and 18 days in Brockton. \*\* North Star Academy Charter School left it blank (210 student days).

4. Are middle schools in your district designated as Elementary (900 hours) or Secondary (990 hours)?

Designated as:	Number of School Districts
Elementary	112
Secondary	97
No Separate Middle Schools	130
Total	339

5a. For Districts with half-day kindergarten program only:

Total Hours Per Year	Number of Reporting School Districts
425 Hours	1
426 - 450 Hours	58
451 - 500 Hours	67
More than 500 Hours	27
Total	153

5b. For Districts with full-day kindergarten program only:

Total Hours Per Year	Number of Reporting School Districts
Fewer than 1,000 Hours	27
1,001 - 1,100 Hours	12
1,101 - 1,200 Hours	15
More than 1,200 Hours	6
Total	60



If there were any obstacles to achieving Time and Learning compliance throughout your district, rank order up to three (3) key obstacles "1", "2", "3", with "1" being the major obstacle.

OBSTACLE	NUMBER OF TIMES SELECTED BY SUPERINTENDENT AS:			
	MAJOR OBSTACLE	SECOND OBSTACLE	THIRD OBSTACLE	TOTAL TIMES SELECTED
NO OBSTACLES REPORTED				191 (56.3%)
Teacher Contract Negotiations	110	23	1	134
Financial Issues Other Than Contracts	16	34	24	74
Staff Resistance	11	36	12	59
Transportation Contract Negotiations	4	10	10	24
Support Staff Contract Negotiations	1	8	10	19
Other	4	2	7	13
Parental Resistance	2	3	6	11
Community Resistance	0	2	4	6

74 (21.8%) reported three obstacles.

44 (13.0%) reported two obstacles.

30 (8.8%) reported only one obstacle and 25 of the 30 selected "Teacher Contract Negotiations"







